

to the U.P. and went on to positively impact many Veterans' lives during his two decades of service at the Iron Mountain VA Medical Center.

After years of work on behalf of Yooper Veterans, Dan was driven to become an advocate on behalf of all Michiganders when he ran for Congress in 2010. As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, he continued his steadfast support of Veterans in his district while also working to pass legislation to protect our state's most valuable landmarks as a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources—most notably the nationally-recognized Sleeping Bear Dunes. I have been and continue to be greatly inspired by Dan's selfless work and dedication to our Veterans as well as his fellow Yoopers. He served the First District of Michigan for three terms from 2011 to 2017, leaving a lasting mark in Washington, D.C.

Dan's passing is a significant loss to the Upper Peninsula, but Michigan and the United States have benefited immensely from his lifetime of public service. He is missed dearly by his family and friends, and his memory will undoubtedly live on for generations to come. Dan's tireless devotion to the public good touched the lives of so many Michiganders, and the impact of his work cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District, I ask you to join me in honoring the life of Dr. Daniel Joseph Benishek. I was honored to call Dan a friend, and it is an honor to uphold his legacy in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO TRAVIS L. THOMAS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Travis L. Thomas who became an angel on September 21, 2021. As we reflect on his extraordinary life, my thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time.

Travis dedicated his life to defending our country, keeping the streets safe, and improving his community. After fighting in the Korean War, Travis returned home and continued his life of service with the Department of Public Safety, serving in the Burnet police force before finishing his career as the police chief of both Georgetown and Luling. His devotion to law and order resulted in safer communities that residents are proud to call home.

Travis was a stellar and committed volunteer following his retirement in 1998, contributing his considerable talents and energies to a broad array of causes. Travis will be especially remembered for how much he loved the City of Burnet where he was involved in a multitude of civic organizations that allowed him to use his abilities to make Burnet the pride of Central Texas.

While I join Travis Thomas's family and friends in mourning his passing, the positive impacts he had on the lives of others will remain in our hearts forever. His presence was a blessing for all who knew him.

RECOGNIZING J.D. GROM

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize J.D. Grom, the Executive Director of the New Democrat Coalition, who recently left us to serve his country in a new capacity at the Department of Commerce.

As Democrats, we all have fight in us. That's never been the hard part. We look at the world around us, see that things can be better, and know that smart people, working hard together can create a better future. But how do we best focus our efforts? It can seem easier, at times, to amplify our differences, drawing battle lines and characterizing our political opponents as existential threats. But that approach is rarely, if ever, in the best service of the nation.

The more constructive path—one that I truly believe will lead to a more equitable, sustainable, and better future—requires not only a deep understanding of the policy challenges we face but the willingness to make progress where we can with allies we recruit and convince along the way.

J.D. Grom spent his time as the Executive Director of the New Democrats committed to this important mission. He never allowed partisan politics to come before the essential work of helping the American people. Staying focused on this responsibility, while managing a large and diverse caucus of big personalities, is no easy task. But it is one that J.D. carried out with the utmost competence, humor, and success, all while being a caring and present husband to Stacy and father to Jack and Emma.

I wish him great professional success in the future, at Commerce and beyond. As he moves into this new phase, he should take pride in the fact that he has left the New Democrat Coalition in a stronger position than he found it, and has set an inspiring example of leadership for his successors.

CONGRATULATING ANNIE WIRTH AND HER RELAY TEAM FOR WINNING THE IHSA STATE TITLE IN TRACK

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Annie Wirth and her relay team for winning the Illinois High School Association State Title.

Addison Pischke ran a strong first leg and passed the baton to Alison Bowers. Bowers handed the baton to third leg Annie Wirth, and the Leafs were in the lead. Wirth increased the lead slightly and when the baton came to Ali Rapps, she increased the lead and finished in 1:42.55, nearly two seconds ahead of the rest of the field. The team captured a state title in the relay and shattered the previous school record of 1:43.85. As a former athlete, I commend the determination and drive of these young women. They are a bright example of the importance of team dedication and

strong work ethic. I am proud to see them represent their community so well throughout the state and the country with their dedication and passion.

It is because of student leaders like them that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Annie Wirth and the relay team for their accomplishment.

HONORING ELLEN BOUCHARD FOR RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE GIRL SCOUTS OF NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ellen Bouchard for receiving the Distinguished Personal Achievement Award from the Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York.

Ellen Bouchard is a prime example of someone deeply devoted to serving her community. In addition to working as a Business Development Officer at Dannemora Federal Credit Union, she is a dedicated member of her local Rotary Club. She has served as a board member, the chair of the Roducky Derby, and the President of the Plattsburgh Noon Rotary Club. As a further marker of her selfless dedication, she has received numerous awards including the Rotary Paul Harris Award, Rotarian of the Year, and the Rotary President Award. Going above and beyond for her community, she has also served on the board of the Senior Citizens Council, Lake City Referals, Go Red for Women, PBS, and Business and Professional Women. Ellen Bouchard is an outstanding role model for Girl Scouts throughout Northeast New York.

Ms. Bouchard truly embodies the spirit of service present throughout the North Country. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I would like to thank Ms. Bouchard for her commitment to her community and congratulate her for this well-deserved recognition.

HONORING MRS. BETTE HORSTMAN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mrs. Bette Horstman and wish her a very happy 100th birthday on December 6, 2021. Mrs. Horstman is a distinguished resident of Morton Grove, Illinois and a constituent of mine. She was an honorable 1st Lieutenant who served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps as a Physical Therapist during World War II.

Bette Horstman was born on December 6, 1921 in Hibbing, Minnesota and grew up in Chicago, Illinois with her younger sister and parents. Mrs. Horstman graduated from the University of Michigan in 1943 and was accepted into the Mayo Clinic's Physical Therapy (PT) program.